

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEAFCS ANNOUNCES THE 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

NEAFCS (National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences), the professional association for Extension Family and Consumer Science professionals, recognized two exceptional women inductees for their commitment, dedication and effective leadership and involvement in NEAFCS at the state, regional and/or national level. They were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2024 NEAFCS Annual Session held in Tucson, Arizona on September 19, 2024.

THE 2024 DISTINGUISHED INDUCTEES ARE:

- Karen Ensle
- Susan Routh

"The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Hall of Fame was established in 2019 to recognize outstanding NEAFCS members who have contributed their time, talent and/or treasure to the NEAFCS."

INDUCTEES' BACKGROUND AND ACHIEVEMENTS

KAREN ENSLE

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Karen Ensle has exemplified unparalleled dedication, expertise, and innovation in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences, making significant contributions that have positively impacted individuals, families, and communities. Her unwavering commitment to excellence, leadership, and service embodies the values and mission of NEAFCS, making her a deserving candidate for this prestigious recognition.

Dr. Ensle's accomplishments are evident through her continued commitment to NEAFCS as a member and leader as well as an FCS professional. Karen has won over 20 awards from NEAFCS on the state, regional, and national levels, she has served as a reviewer for the Journal of NEAFCS since 2006 and has published articles in the Journal. Dr. Ensle serves selflessly to ensure that both the organization and its members continue to thrive and succeed, which is evident in her service to the organization as a whole and the individual members. She has served as an external

reviewer for promotion and tenure packets since 2005, ensuring that NEAFCS continues to attract and foster excellence in its members. Dr. Ensle currently serves on the NEAFCS endowment committee and two Public Affairs committees. In the past she has served on at least 8 different NEAFCS committees dating back to 1991 while holding many affiliate offices and most recently agreed to the affiliate representative for the 90th Anniversary committee. From having her local community make a proclamation for Living Well Month to conveying a historical note to new members about NEAFCS, Karen has exemplified what it means to be a dedicated member of her professional association and leader to new and experienced colleagues alike. As if these activities do not speak enough to her dedication to the mission and vision of NEAFCS, its worth adding that Karen makes a point to go out of her way to support colleagues in New Jersey and nationally. She devotes time, energy, and care to ensure FCS faculty and staff have the tools they need to develop into successful professionals and does it with the utmost kindness and compassion. Dr. Ensle completes every task with careful attention to detail, constructive feedback, and genuine care and concern. I can think of no one who is more deserving of this recognition than our beloved Dr. Ensle.

SUSAN ROUTH

Susan Routh is such a leader and a true Extension Professional. Susan began her Extension career in Johnson County, Texas in 1990. Susan became an educator to impact lives and change outcomes for families and communities. Susan is an Oklahoma 4H alumni and a 2nd generation of Oklahoma State University Extension educator.

Susan served as the OSU Extension Family & Consumer Sciences Educator in Grady County. She then became a Community Nutrition Education Program Coordinator and interim Southwest District FCS Program Specialist. She is currently the West District FCS Program Specialist. She has developed and delivered countless programs and mentored many Extension educators. She served in numerous leadership positions at the county and state level, serving as the Oklahoma Affiliate President 2012 – 2014.

Susan joined NEAFCS in 2005. Since that time, she has been a devoted member of NEAFCS. During her career, Susan has demonstrated dedication to NEAFCS in the numerous roles she has undertaken. Susan served as Southern Region Director (2013 – 2015), Vice President for Awards and Recognition (2017 – 2019), President-elect (2021), President (2022) and Immediate Past President (2023). Susan has attended fifteen Annual Sessions and served on various committees. Susan represented NEAFCS on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Board from 2021 – 2024. In JCEP, she has found her niche, she has served as Co-Chair of the Public Issues and Leadership Development Conference and is serving as the chair for 2024. She is an advocate for FCS and wants to make sure FCS is represented at all levels.

Susan has been an NEAFCS Active Member for nineteen years. She has received many OEAFCs and NEAFCS Awards including the Distinguished Service Award in 2020. She follows the NEAFCS Vision in building future leaders, providing innovative professional development opportunities, and promoting the profession. Susan served as a mentor to many NEAFCS Board members. Brenda Miller, Northeast District FCS Program Specialist, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service stated “I appreciate Susan’s thoughtful and caring approach to leadership. Her insight into Extension

educators and overall grasp of the Extension system helps spur educators to use their unique skills to accomplish their personal goals and common goals of the organization”.

ABOUT NEAFCS

The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) educates and recognizes Extension professionals who impact the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. NEAFCS is the professional organization for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences that builds leaders for the future, recognizes and promotes excellence and scholarship in Extension Family and Consumer Sciences programming, provides innovative professional growth and development opportunities, serves as a nation-wide resource for education, information, networking and partnerships, promotes Extension Family and Consumer Sciences and the mission and goals of the Land Grant University Extension System.

NEAFCS includes more than 2,900 members. To learn more, please visit www.neafcs.org.